Top 20 Ontario Skilled Trades to Launch Your Apprenticeship in 2025

Discover the top 20 in-demand skilled trades in Ontario for 2025. Start your apprenticeship, check qualifications, explore training, and build a future-proof career.

Introduction

Thinking about a career in skilled trades in Ontario? In 2025, apprenticeships in Ontario are in high demand, offering hands-on learning, good pay, and long-term job security. Whether you're a student or switching careers, this guide to the top 20 Ontario skilled trades to start your apprenticeship will help you explore the best opportunities and take your first step toward certification.

> ***Ontario is experiencing a shortage of skilled trade workers — nearly 150,000 new workers needed by 2027.***

Keep reading to find the top trades you can start your apprenticeship in 2025.

Why Skilled Trades in Ontario are a Smart Career Choice

Thinking about your future? Choosing a career in **skilled trades in Ontario** could be one of the smartest moves you make. With so many opportunities available in 2025, apprenticeships let you learn on the job, earn while you train, and build a career you can rely on. Here's why trades are such a great choice:

- **Hands-on experience & earning while you learn –** No boring lectures; you get real-world skills and paychecks at the same time.
- **High demand & job security –** Ontario needs skilled workers across construction, electrical, plumbing, and more, so your skills will always be valuable.
- **Red Seal certification for national recognition –** Complete your apprenticeship and work anywhere in Canada!
- **A wide variety of trades –** Whether you're drawn to construction, electrical work, plumbing, or other specialties, there's a path for you.

Skilled trades also offer great career growth in Ontario and are part of the booming skilled trades jobs 2025 market. These are truly future-proof careers in Canada, and getting started is easier than you think.

At **Trade-Finder**, we help you explore apprenticeship programs, check your eligibility, and connect with employers, making your journey smooth and rewarding.

Learn more about Ontario Apprenticeship Programs

Pre-Apprenticeship Training & Eligibility

Pre-Apprenticeship Training is a great way to kickstart your career in skilled trades. It gives you **hands-on skills, safety knowledge, and connections with employer**s, helping you get ready for your apprenticeship.

Who Can Apply?

- Age 16 or older
- High school diploma or equivalent
- Legal work permission in Ontario (SIN or work permit)

Documents Needed

- Photo ID
- Proof of education
- SIN card or work permit

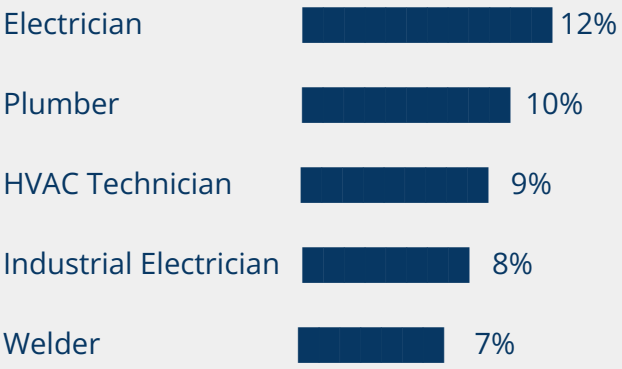
Check out Ontario Pre-Apprenticeship Programs

Top 20 Skilled Trades in Ontario for 2025

Here's a detailed list of the most in-demand skilled trades, including salary, apprenticeship length, and Red Seal availability.

Sr. No.	Trade	Avg Salary/hr	Duration	Red Seal	Growth Outlook
1	Electrician	$30–45	4–5 yrs	Yes	High demand
2	Plumber	$28–42	4–5 yrs	Yes	High demand

3	Carpenter	$25–40	3–4 yrs	Yes	Growing demand
4	HVAC Technician	$28–40	4 yrs	Yes	High demand
5	Welder	$25–38	3 yrs	Yes	Moderate demand
6	Sheet Metal Worker	$26–39	4 yrs	Yes	Moderate demand
7	Automotive Service Technician	$22–36	4 yrs	Yes	High demand
8	Industrial Electrician	$30–45	4–5 yrs	Yes	High demand
9	Steamfitter/Pipefitter	$30–45	4–5 yrs	Yes	High demand
10	Heavy Equipment Operator	$30–45	3–4 yrs	No	Moderate demand
11	Bricklayer / Mason	$25–40	3–4 yrs	Yes	Moderate demand
12	Cabinetmaker	$22–35	3–4 yrs	No	Moderate demand
13	Painter / Decorator	$20–32	3 yrs	No	Moderate demand
14	Roofer	$25–38	3 yrs	No	Moderate demand
15	Boilermaker	$30–45	4–5 yrs	Yes	High demand
16	Ironworker	$28–42	3–4 yrs	Yes	High demand
17	Millwright	$30–44	4 yrs	Yes	High demand
18	Glazier	$22–35	3–4 yrs	No	Moderate demand
19	Sheet Metal Worker	$26–39	4 yrs	Yes	Moderate demand
20	Insulator	$25–38	3–4 yrs	No	Moderate demand



Explore training programs for your trade

How to Launch Your Apprenticeship in Ontario

Step-by-step guide:

- **Check Qualifications –** age, education, work permission.
- **Select Your Trade –** choose from the top 20 list.
- **Find a Sponsor / Employer –** connect with employers offering apprenticeships.
- **Register on Skilled Trades Ontario Portal – official platform for apprentices.**
- **Complete Training & On-the-Job Hours –** combination of classroom and practical work.
- **Certification / Red Seal Exam –** nationally recognized credential.

Start your apprenticeship today

Financial Supports & Incentives

Apprentices in Ontario can benefit from:

- Grants & subsidies for apprentices
- Living expense support during in-class training
- Employer incentives for hiring apprentices

Example: *"Apprentices can receive up to $4,000/year depending on trade and training level."*

Tips to Succeed in Your Apprenticeship

- Be proactive in both classroom and on-site training
- Maintain your apprenticeship logbook accurately
- Network with peers, mentors, and trade unions
- Plan for Red Seal certification if applicable
- Highlight: *Hands-on experience + continuous learning = faster career growth*

FAQs

Q1: How long is an apprenticeship in Ontario?

A: Typically 3–5 years depending on the trade and hours completed.

Q2: Do I need a degree to start an apprenticeship?

A: No, most skilled trades require high school or equivalent.

Q3: Can international students start an apprenticeship?

A: Yes, with proper legal work permission in Ontario.

Q4: Which trades pay the most in Ontario?

A: Electricians, plumbers, industrial electricians, boilermakers, and HVAC techs.

Q5: What is the Red Seal program?

A: National certification that allows you to work across Canada.

Ready to launch your skilled trades career in Ontario?